



المجلس القومي للمرأة

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

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المستجيبة لاحتياجات المرأة خلال جائحة فيروس الكورونا

Women policy Tracker

On Responsive Policies and Programs
During the New COVID-19 Pandemic

WOMEN POLICY TRACKER ON RESPONSIVE POLICIES & PROGRAMS DURING THE NEW COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Introduction

The COVID-19 outbreak has an impact on both men and women. However, it impacts women in different ways. In Egypt, women make up around **42.4% of human doctors** and **91.1% nursing staff** of who are actually working for the Ministry of Health, in addition to **73.1% of nursing staff in hospitals and therapeutic facilities in the private sector are women**². **Women in the health sector are** more likely to be exposed to the virus and dealing with enormous stress balancing paid and unpaid work roles. Furthermore, overwhelmed health services may **limit access to family planning services and to contraceptives**, potentially leading to a rise in fertility rates and the socio-economic impact on individuals, households and communities. COVID-19 is expected to **interrupted access of women to reproductive healthcare services and commodities**. Given that pregnant women are more likely to have contact with health services (antenatal care and delivery), they can be greatly exposed to infections in health facilities which may discourage attendance.

COVID-19 poses a **serious threat to women's engagement in economic activities**, especially in informal sectors, and gender gaps can be increased in livelihoods. In Egypt, 18.1% of women are heads of households³. 40.9% of females' total non-agricultural employment is in informal employment and 33.9% of females' employment is vulnerable employment. Meanwhile 6.7% of female employment in industry; 36.4% of females' employment is in agriculture; while 56.8% of female employment in services;⁴ Egyptian women also represent 70% of the paid care sector workforce (mainly as teachers, health and social workers). Moreover, the paid care sector in Egypt represents around 28–31 % of overall female employment. **Women are almost four times more likely than men to work in the paid care sector.**⁵

Recognizing that, the Egyptian government started to take stringent procedures and measures to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 according to the pace of its spread, while considering all segments needs and women in specific during the execution of those measures. The government was particularly keen to integrate & mainstream all the needs of Egyptian women into the entire decision making process needed and the implementation of programs in order to ensure women's empowerment & protection against the socio-economic and psychological repercussions of the new COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting held on 22 March 2020 in celebration of the Egyptian Women's Day, the speech of the President of the Republic conveyed a number of messages that in general represent a mechanism to face the risks of spread of COVID-19. The President also issued a set of economic and social protection decrees to support and protect all society, and recognized the role and status of the Egyptian woman and the importance of continuing her supportive role during this current phase.

¹ The fourth edition of the report tracked programs and policies from March 14 until July 6, 2020 while the fifth edition tracked the period from the start of the tracker's launch until January 2021.

² CAMPAS 2018

³ CAPMAS 2020

⁴ LMS

⁵ LMS

Since the National Council for Women is the national machinery concerned with proposing the government public policy on women's development pursuant to Law No. 30 of 2018, NCW has prepared a policy paper regarding Egypt's rapid response to women's situation during COVID-19 outbreak, which includes an analysis of the status quo. In this paper, NCW has presented a number of proposed response measures, whether immediate or middle-term responses, for concerned all line ministries & government institutions, regarding the following pillars:

1. **Impact on human endowment (health, education and social protection)** through applying/upscaling the already existing support programs regarding all health aspects including psychological, mental & physical as well as reproductive health care services; social protection programs; particularly response measures for older women; women with disabilities; pregnant women, and women of reproductive age, and education, to deal with the consequences of the school lockdown and the potential girls' dropout.
2. **Women's voice & agency (Violence Against Women, Leadership and Representation in decision making during crisis management)** women's participation in the decision making process can enhance the health security control mechanisms, examination and protection of health, and ensure women's accessibility to the relevant information. Also response measures can be adopted to provide psychosocial, legal and advisory support for women who may be subject to violence resulting from the implications of social conditions generated by the precautionary measures taken to respond to COVID-19 outbreak.
3. **Impact on economic opportunities:** the proposed response interventions depend on the already existing mechanisms as well as introducing new ones to support the women workers whose livelihoods have been affected or whose income from freelance work has declined. Alternative solutions should be proposed to address the economic downturn and its impact on working women in the formal or informal sector.
4. **Promoting data and knowledge:** promoting the compilation of data designed by sex, age and disability-disaggregated data on COVID-19, including tracking the emergency response measures, support policy research & social innovation; monitoring & evaluating the impact of the COVID-19; and conduct public opinion surveys in order to recognize the differences in exposure and treatment & help design the preventive measures accordingly.

In this regard, NCW established the "Women policy tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs During COVID-19 Pandemic" to serve the following purposes:

- 1) Monitor all issued policies and procedures responsive to the needs of Egyptian women directly and/or indirectly in light of the efforts made to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- 2) Design an easier tool that can be used as reference to all women related issued policies that can be used by decision makers for a more collaborative & comprehensive vision on means of moving forward.
- 3) Document the efforts & highlight the outcome of the coordinated efforts of the government on women related policies to protect them & their families from the COVID-19
- 4) Reflect on all those policies with necessary supporting programs & initiatives

All procedures, policies and decisions included in this tracker are divided into:

- Procedures, policies and new decisions taken for the first time
- Procedures, policies, and decisions that were upscaled or expanded ⁶ 

⁶ All measures that are given the upscaled icons are only tracked in this report with its given date but not counted within the number of measures to avoid duplication

The major women related responsive policies and measures taken by the Egyptian Government

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in collaboration with all the concerned bodies constantly issues measures and programs to combat the spread of the virus. Moreover, MoHP issues all the data on the numbers of COVID-19 cases transparently and disaggregated by sex & age; in addition to producing awareness raising videos & info graphs about the virus.

(14 March 2020)

- The President issued a decree on **suspending classes in universities and schools** for two weeks; as protection for the children allowing the mothers to rest assure of their safety.
 - The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) issued a decree on the **lockdown of nurseries** for two weeks; *as protection for the children allowing the mothers to rest assure of their safety.*
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(16 March 2020)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 719 of 2020, including inter alia:
 - o The number of **employees in government authorities and bodies shall be reduced** under the set of the precautionary measures taken by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
 - o Pregnant **women or those looking after one child or more of less than 12 years** shall be granted an **exceptional leave** for as long as the Decree remains in force; *allowing all working mothers to be able to do their family duties without losing their jobs.*
 - o **Women employees looking after their children with disabilities** shall be granted a leave pursuant to a circular; *allowing mothers of children with disabilities to be able to take care of their children without losing their jobs.*
 - MoHP announced taking special measures on **dispensing medicines for chronic diseases, formula milk and Family planning methods** (contraceptives) for three months; *accessibility needed reproductive healthcare services for women*
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(19 March 2020)

- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) announced **intensifying the precautionary measures** for children in foster homes and providing all the health precautions and awareness-raising leaflets, including welfare homes, correctional institutions, orphanages, **nursing homes, social welfare facilities**, people with disabilities, and **women shelters**; *protection of elderly women and women with disabilities living in the shelters; Preparedness to any potential case of violence against women through secured concerned shelters.*
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(22 March 2020)

- The President instructed as part of a set of decrees and directives aimed to address the new COVID-19 to **launch campaigns for raising the awareness of citizens** for guidance and providing precise information, and strengthen health control according to the highest standards, at the points of entry to the country; *Awareness raising & promoting data & knowledge to include women beneficiaries.*

- MoSS announced **increasing the number of beneficiaries of conditional cash transfer** from Takaful and Karama Program to **100,000 households**; **Social protection especially for women heads of households**
- MoSS announced **increasing the monthly income for rural women leaders** from EGP 300 to EGP 900 per month; **increased support to women rural leaders on ground**
- MoSS announced **integrating women aged 65 and above in nursing homes** under the umbrella of social protection; **protection of elderly women**
- MoSS announced **increasing the number of beneficiaries of soft loans and loans with negligible interest rates** to set up micro enterprises so that they can improve the living standard of their families; **economic opportunities to include women in need to microfinance loans**

(24 March 2020)

- Extending the suspension of classes in schools and universities and lockdown of nurseries of whatever type;
- The Ministry of Manpower (MoM) announced the steps of **registration of irregular workers** on MoM website to receive an **exceptional allowance of EGP 500**, as part of the government plan to protect them due to being affected by the COVID-19; **providing economic support to include women irregular workers**

(26 March 2020)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 776 of 2020 on **establishing a workers' emergency benefits fund and forming a committee for the irregular workers affected by the economic repercussions** of the emerging COVID-19, composed of (the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Minister of Manpower, Minister of Social Solidarity, NCW President, Chairman of Information and Decision Support Center, Head of the Suggestion and Complaints Committee of the National Wage Council, and a member of the Administrative Control Authority). Including NCW in this committee reflects the government's belief in the **importance of women's voice & agency through representation, participation & involvement in the process of decision making and taking into account the needs of Egyptian women** while designing the policies and strategies aimed to respond and mitigate the impacts of the new Coronavirus.

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- **Collect the data of the workers** affected by the economic repercussions of the new COVID-19, and take the necessary actions in coordination with the various concerned bodies to offer financial and social support to the workers to overcome the crisis.
- **Coordinate the efforts and initiatives** introduced by financial institutions, companies, businessmen, non-governmental institutions and other concerned bodies so that the aids are delivered to those eligible.
- **Coordinate with the Workers' Emergency Benefits Fund** to ensure the existence of a consolidated database for the affected workers to avoid double disbursement.

- **Develop policies for workers' compensation in case of partial or full lockdown** of the facilities in which they work, in coordination with the concerned funds and accounts.

The amounts disbursed from the workers' Emergency benefits Fund amounted to approximately 769 million and 339 thousand pounds for 364 thousand and 261 workers, working in 3738 companies affected by the emerging COVID-19 pandemic during 2020.

(29 March 2020)

- The President issued a decree on **increasing the monthly allowance for medical professionals by 75%** and establishing a risk fund for medical professionals; **Economic benefits to include women health care providers (doctors & medical professionals)**
- The President announced the **disbursement of exceptional bonuses from "Tahya Misr" Fund for all the workers (men and women) in quarantine, fever and chest hospitals and central labs** all over Egypt; **Economic benefits to include women health care providers**
- The Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) issued a set of resolutions on the activity of microfinance for the benefit of 3.1 million citizens, including:
 - **Reduce or postpone the installments due from the clients by 50%** of the value of each installment for microfinance clients.
 - **Exempt microfinance clients who make timely payments from the commission of the prepayment of indebtedness or reducing the administrative fees** to renew the existing funding; **economic opportunities benefiting women in microfinance**

(2 April 2020)

- The President instructed to provide **additional support to the health sector** and enhance the financial conditions of the health workers, doctors and nurses, by **increasing the bonuses granted to medical interns** during their internships in university hospitals under the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHEO) and Scientific Research and Al-Azhar University hospitals, to **EGP 2200 per month, instead of EGP 400**, as of December 2019 class; Senior students of medicine bonuses increased, reaching a total of 320 million pounds and as well as the medical professions allowance, which increased by 2.25 billion pounds. A financial package for 2.1 million teachers and their education assistants in public pre-universities and Al-Azhar has been established, at an amount of 6.6 billion pounds during 2020." **economic benefits to include women doctors**

(5 April 2020)

- The MoH launched **2 hotlines to provide necessary psychological support** to citizens at home; **psychological support programs to include women beneficiaries**
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(6 April 2020)

- The President instructed to **provide allowances of 500 EGP for irregular workers** who might be impacted by the COVID-19 for 3 consecutive months; **economic benefits to include women irregular worker.**
 - The President instructed to upscale **decent housing by building 250,000 new housing unit and another 100,000 housing unit** for the people living in unsafe habitat; **Social protection intervention to include women beneficiaries**
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(7 April 2020)

- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA)** announced the launch of an **exceptional loan for a limited period to help small projects survive the crisis** & support needed liquid money to finance running & production costs. Loan maximum amount is 1 million EGP & it **shall be granted to small businesses** with specific conditions & an exceptional interest rate, according to the nature of each project. (Given that, the total no. of small project provided to women in 2019 was 69% while 51% of microfinance loans were granted to women).
 - **Egyptian microfinance federation** allow their 3,500,000 beneficiaries in the informal sector to **access electronic financial services using meeza card and/or electronic mobile wallets**. This is done through 200,000 employees working in 964 organizations & non-governmental organizations, 11 microfinance companies; other than banks that provide the same service as well.
 - **Ministry of Manpower** announced that **40% of the beneficiaries of irregular workers registered as impacted from COVID-19 provided the 500 EGP allowances are women**; and the value of the contribution amounted to one billion, 300 million and 108 thousand pounds within the presidential initiative for irregular workers through the social and health care accounts for workers, and 62 million and 875 thousand pounds were spent on social and health care during the year 2020
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(9 April 2020)

- **The Central Bank of Egypt dedicated 50 billion egp for mortgage finance** to middle class income through banks & mortgage companies for 20 years; (given that previously, 20% of the mortgage finance funds beneficiaries are women).
 - **Ministry of Health & population launched a mobile application "Egypt's Health"** which is the **official platform for awareness raising against COVID-19** & a guidance the necessary steps to be taken incase infected by the virus & means of contacting the authorized health staff.
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(11 April 2020)

- **Ministry of interior (Moi)** launched the 2nd phase of the initiative **"we are one"** that started at the beginning of April. Moi **has distributed basic food supplies to families in need** in Al Asmarat neighborhood under this initiative.

- A campaign titled **“Stop the Bulling, COVID-19 virus is not a crime”** was launched to raise the public awareness about the social stigma that is related to COVID19.
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(12 April 2020)

- **Ministry of Environment** launched its action-plan to fight COVID-19 through proper recycling of medical waste & monitoring pollution sources; the ministry also shall launch an **awareness campaign titles “get ready for being green”** which includes a component for fighting COVID-19 through rationalizing resource consumption and purchasing only basic needs, raising awareness of how to **safely dispose of masks and gloves to ensure the virus does not spread, and educating cleaners on the need to wear masks and gloves.**
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(13 April 2020)

- **The Prime Minister launched Ahalina community Initiative** with the slogan of **“Hand in Hand we help each other”** to support irregular workers impacted by the COVID-19 through donations. The initiative aims to **provide financial support to irregular workers through the contribution of all stakeholders (Private sector, individuals, & other organizations).** In that context, **Banque Misr** has launched **new offerings for the e-wallet product to encourage donations** in a timely & efficient manner.
 - **Ministry of Health & Population** has provided **personal protection equipment to the personnel working on family planning campaigns & services** as prevention from the COVID19.
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(15 April 2020)

- **Ministry of ICT** launched a **technological center for people with disabilities which provide 24 hour response service to people with disabilities about any COVID-19** related inquiry including anyone who might be having COVID-19 symptoms & link them to the concerned health entities in Egypt through the **Application titled “Wasel” dedicated for the deaf & people with hearing impairment.**
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(16 April 2020)

- **The Prime Minister of Egypt** issued a decree to **control the prices of precautionary products** that are used to prevent and limit the spread of COVID19.
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(19 April 2020)

- **The National Council for Women with the Ministry of Health & Population, World Health Organization, UNFPA, Extra news & Egypt Today Magazine** launched a campaign to **raise the awareness of the public on COVID19 from a medical/scientific dimension** through the production of videos featuring expert medical doctors from different specialties.
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(20 April 2020)

- **The Ministry of foreign affairs & Ministry of Migration** have been working on **launching exceptional flights for Egyptians** who were stuck in other countries due to the COVID19. **Priority was given to 270 women and children** who were stuck in Kuwait.
 - The **Ministry of Social Solidarity** announced:
 -  **Extending the beneficiaries of Conditional cash transfer** program “Takaful & Karama” to new **160,000 families**. The number of registered in the program reached 3.6 million families until December 2020, accompanied by a complete database on these families, among them families with illness that deserve care.
 - Providing **exceptional cash support for 3 months to One million citizens** (over 200 thousand families).
 - Starting a pilot of **digitizing insurance services through transferring pension over mobile phones** in Luxor & Port said Governorates.
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(22 April 2020)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity published the report of the efforts of **the Egyptian Red Crescent** during the COVID19 pandemic during the period from April 16 to April 22, and included the implementation of field interventions to confront the virus through field teams deployed throughout the country that carry out sterilization and disinfection operations for state institutions that provide Services to the public; and distributing aid to the families in need. **The number of volunteers reached 2706** with a volunteer campaign in every street; **the number of volunteers trained to respond to the COVID19 reached 5705; the number of public awareness campaigns reached 380; and the number of sterilization and disinfection campaigns reached 361. While total number of interventions for affected areas is 17; and the total number of relief resources and disinfectants distributed is 1077.**
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(23 April 2020)

- Egyptian Parliament has **adopted the small, medium & micro enterprises law, which include a full pillar on the informal sector** and means of formalizing it; and set some conditions for those enterprise to adhere to; with a planned transition phase. This comes in line with the **Government’s plan to integrate the informal sector with good incentives provided.**
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(25 April 2020)

- **Ministry of ICT** launched a package of **educational program for women** to prepare them for labor market including **new technological tools to help women in the areas of e-marketing and e-commerce** to ensure they are empowered economically.
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(26 April 2020)

- **The general healthcare authority**, which is one of the new comprehensive health insurance system authorities, working under the supervision of the Ministry of Health & Population, signed a memorandum

of understanding with **the general federation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**. The MOU aims at **raising awareness about COVID19 & means of preventing & limiting its spread**. The MOU was signed to enhance coordination of governmental entities (represented in the healthcare authority) & non- governmental entities (represented in the federation of ngos) efforts. The agreement also includes training and raising the capacities of volunteers and **delivering necessary medicine to the elderly & people with chronic disease** who are beneficiaries of the health insurance system; **and 4500 patient of those categories have already received their medicine**. It also participates in sanitizing premises determined by the healthcare authority & dedicated necessary equipment to do so.

- Ministry of Social solidarity has activated the **marital awareness program “Mawwada” online** as response to the COVID19. 17 videos were recorded for a group of psychologists and experts giving messages to the Egyptian families; while a new video is added on daily basis on this platform. This is done under the “stay at home” initiative as means to limiting the spread of COVID19.

(28 April 2020)

- **The President of Egypt** directed to **intensify awareness raising campaigns to address any misconceptions about the COVID19** and **the social stigma** that might hinder citizens to ask for medical help or apply for the COVID19 tests.
- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, under the guidance of the Cabinet, works to ensure that the **lives of migrants and refugees are not exposed to any direct effects of the COVID19** through support provided by the **health care system** and that **no measures are taken to return the migrants to their countries**. **United Nations concerned organizations also provide basic services** and health care for refugees in Egypt.
- **Ministry of Industry & commerce and MSMEDA** has drafted a policy note with **suggested policy measures for women**, as response to the National Council for women’s note. Among the most important suggestions are:
 - Support mechanisms of E-marketing to women products so they can sell their products from home through the e-exhibition of MSMEDA.
 - Study the possibility of conducting women trainings online.
 - Facilitate & support financing/lending projects that women can do from their home such as heritage products.
 - Study the possibility of providing necessary services through social development & human sector (such as health & literacy projects) through the internet.
 - MSMEDA local offices shall contact their female heads of households beneficiaries who own projects and study means of supporting them & their projects to reduce any negative impact resulting from COVID19.
 - Prepare for a media plan to aware women on all digital services provided by MSMEDA.
 - Coordinate with NCW to study means of implementing the suggested policies in Egypt’s rapid response to women’s situation through COVID19 outbreak.
 - Provided needed information about sectors that include women that are highly impacted by the COVID19 & study means of immediate intervention to support women in those sectors, especially

Female heads of household & women caring for a disabled family member in the microfinance sector.

- Study means of contacting private sector and banking sector through their corporate social responsibility departments (CSR) to provide needed support for sectors that have high percentages of women owned businesses & especially commercial projects.

(29 April 2020)

- **Public prosecution** took immediate steps & necessary legal measures after the emergence of some lawsuit of exploitation of women and girls, and the pursuit of making money by illegal means, within the framework of **protecting women and girls from human trafficking crimes and electronic/cybercrimes**.
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(1 May 2020)

- **Tahya Masr Fund** has launched a new convoys with 123 cars that **includes basic food supplies & disinfectants/sanitizers that have been delivered to 150,000 families** in need especially during the holy month of Ramadan and as a preventive measure against the COVID19 pandemic
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(2 May 2020)

- **Tahya Masr Fund** has coordinated with **Ministry of Social Solidarity and Ministry of local development** to allocate a share of **basic food supplies & disinfectants/sanitizers** to the branches of **The National Council for Women to be distributed to families in need and impacted by the COVID19**
 - **The National Council for Women with Baseera Center in partnership with UN Women** has launched a **phone survey** during the period from 4th -14th of April that tackled the effect of COVID19 pandemic. The survey included 1518 women with a minimum age of 18 years old. The survey results confirmed that the pandemic contributed to a change in lifestyle compared to the pre-pandemic period; tackling violence against women & economic impact among other topics. Results showed that **7% of the wives reported that they had already been subjected to violence by the husband** (verbal abuse or insult); that this did not happen before the pandemic occurred. The survey showed that **33% is the rate of increased problems with in the family**; and **19% increase in violence among family members**. The **level of awareness among family members on means of prevention from COVID-19 is 94%**; while **72% of the respondents believe that the family's income has been affected by the crisis**, and that the **time spent by women in doing households tasks has increased**.
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(3 May 2020)

- **The Ministry of Justice** has suspended the work in courts but took an **exceptional decision to proceed with the family court cases** in order to finalize issues such as alimony payment, child custody & residence and other important matters that will support women custodians during the pandemic. The decision has been coupled with another one to **sanitize the concerned courts & apply all precautionary measures to them**.
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(4 May 2020)

- ***Egypt is leading an international movement in the United Nations to magnify the attention to the situation of women & girls during COVID19 times. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The National Council for Women*** are working on this as means to emphasize the need for international cooperation & sharing of experiences in order to overcome this challenge facing humanity. This cooperation shall ensure that all negative social repercussions of the spread of the COVID19 on women are addressed and preventive measures are taken to reduce its impact on the most affected segments. In that context, ***a draft resolution was presented to the United Nations General Assembly in order to support national and international efforts to respond immediately to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on women and girls, under the item on global health and foreign policy***, with the aim of establishing a comprehensive and robust implementation framework for rapid response to health and social repercussions of COVID19 on women. The Ministry of foreign affairs, through its embassies and official missions, have distributed Egypt's policy note titled "Egypt's rapid response to women's situation during COVID19 outbreak" & women policy tracker first edition titled "Women policy Tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs during the New COVID-19 Pandemic" to share Egypt's experiences and practice on the international level.
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(5 May 2020)

- ***The Ministry of planning & economic development (MoPED) in cooperation with Terous Misr Foundation*** launched an initiative titled "***Masr Hataady/Egypt will overcome***". The initiative aims to ***encourage the private sector to retain employment and provide new job opportunities*** and encourage all programs and initiatives to support and develop the SME sector; as it is one of the most affected sectors impacted by the COVID19. The Initiative is done ***with the participation of a large number of owners and heads of companies, civil society institutions, intellectuals and private sector companies***. ***An interactive website and platforms on social media will be launched*** and benefit from audio and visual media to contribute to raising Public awareness and achieving the highest level of interaction with citizens.
 - ***The Prime Minister and the Ministry of Planning & economic development*** announced the progress on ***digitization plan of the government***; including allowing Egyptian citizens to process any transactions or ***issue their official documents without having to go to governmental premises***; given that ***some of the governmental services & documents will be digitized & delivered citizens at home***.
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(6 May 2020)

- ***The National Council for Women, in cooperation with the UN Women*** launched the "***Mental Health Prioritization***" initiative, with several partners, including ***Safe Kids and Shezlong-therapist app, and Egypt Today magazine***, and the initiative was launched on the social networking sites of the Council and the partners. A number ***of psychologists and concerned institutions to support the mental health of Egyptian women*** and raise awareness among women & men on the importance of mental health in general in light of the spread of the current COVID19 and the initiative comes as an important part of the Government awareness raising efforts.
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(7 May 2020)

- The Ministry of Local Development provided **financial assistance to support families in need in 101 villages** in the governorates of Assiut and Sohag and Qena and provided technical and financial support to small borrowers and beneficiaries of the local development fund, especially **female heads of households and youth and people with lower-income** to mitigate the effects of the repercussions of the COVID19. This is under the framework of the local development program in Upper Egypt and the presidential initiative "A decent life".
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(13 May 2020)

- Under the directions of the President of Egypt, The Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises agency (MSMEDA) - The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Bank of Cairo committed to increase the micro-projects financial portfolio and focus on women and youth through **signature of two project contracts worth 620 million pounds to support small and micro projects** in order to develop and expand the availability of loans to **help these projects cover their administrative and operational expenses**, continuity and competition in light of the prevalence of the COVID19 and its negative effects on temporary and unsustainable employment. The **percentage of projects allocated to women in these two contracts ranges between 30% and 100% of the total financing**.
 - 1- The first project, "The Initiative for Microfinance Project", with a total funding from the agency of 500 million pounds.
 - 2- The second project, "Women microfinance project", with a total funding of EGP 120 million dedicated to supporting Egyptian women.
 - The National Post Authority began **delivering a unified Meeza card** to those who are entitled to the irregular workers grant decided by President of the Republic. (40% of the beneficiaries are women)
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(14 May 2020)

- The Prime Minister directed allocating necessary financial needs to continue the development of important **information infrastructure projects** that are in line with the current conditions given the important of relying on the Internet, whether in **education or training**, in addition to implementing many **other automated services** in light of the spread of the COVID19
 - The Ministry of Health and Population has **activated the "Call Center" service** to Egypt's health application, and created **an electronic system to link units and centers with hospitals**, and the issuance of the application for **remote consultations and telemedicine clinics**.
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(16 May 2020)

- Tahya Masr Fund launched **the largest convoy of humanitarian aid** for the benefit of the families in need, which is the third phase of the initiative "if we share, we will survive the crisis" aimed at reaching **300 villages in need in 16 governorates** and is organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and 20 civil society organizations.
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(17 May 2020)

- Within the framework of the partnership between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the World Bank Group, the group provided **50 million dollars in an emergency response** within the framework of the rapid financing package approved by the World Bank Group. The new project will address preventive measures and detect cases of infection and respond to the pandemic in Egypt, and the project will contribute to finance (1) The purchase and distribution of medical equipment and supplies needed to counter the virus; (2) Training of medical personnel; (3) Quarantine, isolation, and specially designated treatment centers; (4) Mobilizing rapid response teams in tracking contacts of COVID19 cases; (5) Develop content delivery platforms and tools to improve public awareness of virus prevention; and (6) innovative monitoring and evaluation of social distancing strategies, including community mobilization.
 - The Prime Minister **announced special precautionary measures to be taken during Eid vacation** including extending the curfew to be from 6am to 5pm, closure of all malls, restaurants, beaches and entertainment services. Also some of the institutions & facilities were sterilized during that time.
 - The cabinet also produced an **awareness video of the impact of COVID19** to continue raising awareness on the issue especially during official holidays.
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(18 May 2020)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in cooperation with the Misr Al Khair Foundation, launched the **third convoy of "Al Kheir Convoys" to provide basic food supplies and some medical protection tools in 8 governorates in Upper Egypt**, and this comes as a continuation of the convoys that were launched previously in 18 governorates in Lower Egypt and coastal cities for **the benefit of the families in need (who are mostly headed by women)**.
 - The Ministry of Finance allowed the use of the **QR code in government transactions** to pay all financial dues to government agencies without touching the collection machine through an **electronic wallet via mobile phones in order to reduce the use of banknotes and the spread of the virus between citizens**.
 - **Ministry of health** has issued awareness raising material on how to deal with autistic children during the COVID19 pandemic.
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(20 May 2020)

- Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises agency has allocated **a financing portfolio amounting to 5.4 billion to finance projects for women** in particular **in border and upper governorates** through a strategy for the advancement of Egyptian women projects and young graduates, and it is expected that 216 thousand micro-projects will be implemented over five years and 250 thousand jobs and projects will be funded through banks and civil society organizations that cooperate with the agency.
- The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology launched the **automatic testing service for symptoms of the COVID19 with ChatBot technology in sign language** through its "Wasel" application for the deaf and people with hearing impairment and the "Tamkeen" website, as part of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology efforts to support the government's plans to confront the COVID19 and in light of its strategy to use information technology for an inclusive society.

(21 May 2020)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 1097 of 2020 to establish a committee to study the financial compensation and workers' salaries in national projects regarding their potential suspension from work due to the precautionary measures taken to confront the spread of COVID19. The committee includes (Minister of Planning and Economic Development - Minister of Manpower - Minister of International Cooperation - Minister of Finance - Minister of Housing and Urban Communities - Minister of Social Solidarity - Minister of Trade and Industry – President of the National Council for Women - Chairman of the Information and Decision Support Center - Chairman of the Proposals and Complaints Committee of the National Wages Council - Member of the Administrative Control Authority). Including NCW in this committee reflects the government's belief in the **importance of women's voice & agency through representation, participation & involvement in the process of decision making and taking into account the needs of Egyptian women** while designing the policies and strategies aimed to respond and mitigate the impacts of COVID19.

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- **Establishing an electronic database of the national projects and companies** assigned to the implementation of these projects include detailed employment data on existing workers & their number.
 - **Coordination with the concerned entities** and those responsible for managing these projects and companies to **update this database on weekly basis**.
 - Estimate the value of a **decent financial compensation** and the minimum salary for those workers in case of any work suspension due to the current circumstances, given the information on the electronic database.
 - Study & prepare **mechanisms and executive procedures needed for disbursement** in the light of the previous lessons learned and acquired experiences to disburse the irregular workers grant.
- **1,053,704 women benefited from the awareness raising campaigns** conducted by the National Council for Women in 1885 village from 25th of March until 21st of May. The campaigns were done through NCW rural community leaders
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(23 May 2020)

- Ministry of Health has **dedicated one of its hospitals to COVID19 patient who have mental illness**. The Hospital has trained medical staff who are able to provide special treatment to the patients.
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(24 May 2020)

- A presidential decree was issued to **release 5532 women and men prisoners** during Eid vacation.
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(25 May 2020)

- Under the direction of the President & the Prime Minister, The Ministry of Health and Population has announced **providing all the needs, medical care, preventive requirements, and psychological support for medical teams**, including having necessary covid19 tests. This is done to provide the utmost care for the medical teams. The Ministry also thanked all medical teams and their families as the first line defense

facing COVID19. (Women make up around 42.4% of human doctors and 91.1% nursing staff of who are actually working for the Ministry of Health, in addition to 73.1% of nursing staff in hospitals and therapeutic facilities in the private sector are women)

(26 May 2020)

- The Ministry of Health and Population updated the "Egypt's health" application, **adding services to help with reporting, adding a list of hospitals, how to reach the nearest hospital, the alert feature in case of entering affected areas, instructions for home quarantine and daily follow-up with patients.**
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(28 May 2020)

- The Cabinet announced a number of decisions, **including increasing the staff of the hotline by an additional 150 seats** to deal with affected and suspected cases; and the government complaints system coordinated for patient services with the Ministry of Health and Population; and expanding the number of hospitals dealing with COVID19 patients and to reach 376 hospitals through out the governorates of Egypt.
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(30 May 2020)

- A Cabinet decision was issued & imposed to **oblige wearing masks in public places and all closed places where citizens accumulate in large numbers and in public and private transportation and metro stations** and not allowing entry into a government institution without wearing masks & penalty will be imposed in case of non-compliance. This is not **applied to children under the age of 2** while announcing **children should not wear masks without the supervision of their parents**. This is within the framework of the government's plan to take all precautionary and preventive measures against COVID19.
 - The Ministry of Health and Population has **allocated 5400 health units, and 1,000 fixed and mobile medical convoys in all governorates** of the Republic to distribute a bag of medicines and preventive supplies to those in contact with positive cases of the COVID19 to facilitate the treatment of citizens and reduce the burden on hospitals.
-

(31st May 2020)

- **Ministry of Health delivers medication for the patients** who are affected and in home quarantine & people who are in contact with them.
- The Egyptian Red Crescent Society, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration in Egypt, provided support to women and men migrants, and host communities by distributing personal hygiene kits and food and non-food commodities in numerous governorates. The mission has also coordinated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide the basic needs of social welfare institutions.
- The International Organization for Migration in Egypt, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, distributed 3000 flyers and posters on measures to prevent COVID-19 in six different languages covering the main languages of migrant communities in Cairo and Alexandria in addition to 35,000 pamphlets in Arabic to raise awareness about the virus and the referral pathways that have been developed with partners.

(1 June 2020)

- **A 24 hour hotline was dedicated in each governorate** to follow up with citizens & receive any complaints about the COVID19 treatment. Those calls are **followed up by the Governors themselves**. This includes taking severe action in case receiving any calls regarding any hospital that refuses to admitted in any COVID19 patient, and the patient is immediately referred to another one.
-

(3 June 2020)

- Prime Minister gave instructions to **regulate & control the prices of COVID19 treatment in private hospitals**. Relatively flat rates have been announced.
 - The Public prosecution has taken immediate **legal interventions against the incident of 3 girls being subjected to FGM** in Suhag Governorate. The **National FGM committee** in Egypt chaired by the National Council for Women & the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood are following up with the concerned agencies and the public prosecution. The National FGM committee & the legislative committee in NCW is studying **legislative amendments**; and will make sure women & girls are not exposed to such harmful practices during COVID19.
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(4 June 2020)

- The **National Council for women's complaints office has received 34,000 inquiries/complaint** since the start of the outbreak (14th of March until the 4th of June 2020). Necessary action was taken to refer all inquiries/complaints to the concerned entities timely & effectively. The **complaints office has started to upgrade its technological infrastructure** to ensure more efficient & effective services for women are available.
 - The National Council for women has been **promoting the essential service packages** for any potential violence against women case since the start of the COVID19 outbreak.
-

(6 June 2020)

- The Ministry of Health through its hospitals are making **safe deliveries for pregnant women** who were affected by COVID19 and immediate interventions were taken. It is worth mentioning that 1st cesarean delivery done for a COVID19 pregnant woman was in 5th of April.
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(8 June 2020)

- The Ministry of Finance announced **meeting all the needs of the Ministry of Supply and internal trade to provide all strategic goods and supplies**. The additional financing needs related to the COVID19 have been estimated at approximately 63 billion pounds.

(9 June 2020)

- Anti-Harassment unit in Cairo University has announced working on an awareness raising campaign against all forms of **cybercrimes & violence against women through the internet**.

- The Financial Regulation Authority (FRA) launched a smart **application via mobile phones titled "Women Empowerment"** to create a database that includes women who are qualified to occupy leadership positions. Also, the first training program entitled "**Certificate of the Board Member**" was designed for potential women with the aim of building their capacities for **membership of boards of directors**.
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(10 June 2020)

- The Ministry of Health and Population, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, provided **ambulances, tests and hospital beds for any of the elderly or people with disabilities**, and directed a technician to take care of COVID19 tests in elderly shelter due to the inability to transfer cases sometimes.
-

(15 June 2020)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation launched the "Mask" initiative in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and civil society organizations with the aim of involving women in upper-Egypt in the production of masks as part of the societal efforts to confront the pandemic.
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(17 June 2020)

- The National Council for Women has activated the work on the citizenship project **to issue National ID cards free of charge for women in need**. Some ID cards were issued and delivered to women at home especially elderly women.
-

(18 June 2020)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity has produced **awareness raising messages about COVID19**. They have also launched a **competition on COVID19 with prizes reaching up to 200,000 EGP** to aware families about the danger of the virus especially families who are enrolled in Takaful & Karama Program. One of the participation criteria is that the female participation rate should not be less than 50%.
-

(20 June 2020)

- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) has issued a **survey about the COVID19's impact on Egyptian families**. Among the announced numbers was **60% have either lost their jobs or their work have changed; 26% have completely lost their jobs; 90% have changed their consumption behavior to necessary products; 53% had to go through loans**.
-

(23 June 2020)

- Egyptian Prime Minister has announced some **measures to coexist with the COVID19** among them is removing the partial curfew, resuming work on restaurants, cafes & cinemas with 25% capacity, public transportation to resume operation, opening worship venues; while public parks & beaches are still closed.

- The Egyptian parliament has **passed a law that amends some provisions to enhance the state's ability to face risks of COVID19** such as compelling individual to use masks & other precautionary measures in public spaces. Also others amend were passed concerning procedures of dealing with deaths resulting from infectious diseases and burial process.
 - The Ministry of Justice announced **resuming works in all Egyptian courts.**
 - The National Council for Women through its Women Business Development Center (WBDC) has connected with women from different governorates within its project **(AL Mashghal) to produce masks that can be sold for the public** use given the latest decision of obliging the citizens to wear masks in public spaces.
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(26 June 2020)

- Ministry of Health has issued **awareness raising to early married couples to advise them to delay pregnancies** at times of COVID19
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(29 June 2020)

- Public Prosecution **raise awareness to marital couples & Egyptian Families** on the importance of marital relationships and its strength during these times.
 - **Al Azhar el Sharif** issued a decree of giving **exceptional leave for mothers of children less than 12 years old, pregnant women & people with chronic disease.** This is in light with resuming working amid the recent announcement of the Prime Minister of Egypt to the coexisting plan.
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(30 June 2020)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation agreed with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 5 future projects between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the USAID, with a total value **of \$ 105 million, in the sectors of women's economic and social support.**
 - The Ministry of Health and Population, in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development, **established and equipped 45 health units in 45 villages in the governorates of the first phase of the presidential initiative "A decent life" worth around 550 million pounds,** in line with the comprehensive health insurance model approved by the Ministry of Health, with the aim of providing medical supplies, medicines and covering the governorates who are most in need given the COVID19.
 - The International Organization for Migration in Egypt has worked to strengthen referral systems with migrant communities, embassies in Cairo and NGOs to the International Organization for Migration in Egypt in order to obtain urgent financial and housing assistance.
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(1 July 2020)

- Ministry of Social Solidarity announced that **nurseries resume their work with specific condition & precautionary measures.**
 - Ministry of Higher Education announces **a new education system** for the upcoming years. Education **through the internet, and with minimal physical attendance** is planned and not only during COVID19 those are permanent decisions for the higher education system.
 - The National Council for Women along with the ILO has started its **digitized financial education training** through its trainers that have been trained on several manuals.
 - Tahya Masr Fund is continuing its fourth phase of the initiative **"if we share, we will survive the crisis" distributing 500 tons of food and 36 tons of poultry to those in need in 19 governorates.** Beneficiaries are elderly in shelters, people with disabilities, widows and female heads of households.
 - Egyptian Cabinet approved a project of cooperation between the Government of Egypt and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development in providing a grant of 200,000 euros to finance the project **"Contributing to creating job opportunities for women in Upper Egypt, by improving their capabilities and developing productive groups"**
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(3 July 2020)⁷

- The Ministry of Health and Population announced the **resumption of the initiative of the President of the Republic "women's health"** in health units and specialized centers, **with all precautions taken to ensure the safety of Egyptian women.**
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⁷ Last measure tracker within the Fourth Edition of the tracker



During the period between July - September 2020, the Egyptian government began to take several decisions and policies regarding coexisting with the virus & the ways to gradually return to normal life in conjunction with the state's plan to coexist with the COVID-19, including allowing the opening of nurseries, sporting clubs and youth centers in accordance with health controls and conditions, resuming adult education activities, the return of literacy classes as well as announcing the start of the education procedures and the dependence on the use of modern technology in the learning process and capitalizing on the educational platforms launched by the ministry of education for students since the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this period, the Egyptian government succeeded, through major steps regarding the constitutional entitlements, to organize the relevant parliamentary/legislative council elections process, as elections for the Senate were organized for the first time since the amendment of the Egyptian constitution in 2019, and elections to the House of Representatives (Egyptian Parliament) were also organized after the end of its first legislative term. This year, The National Elections Authority has developed a plan, in cooperation with all concerned authorities & institutions, to stress that all measures and means to prevent the virus are taken while citizens exercise their constitutional right to complete the voting and election process.

With regard to the Senate, law No. 141 of 2020 had been passed to regulate the Senate, which allocated 10% representation for women. The result of the completion of the election process and the formation of the Senate was that women reached 14% after the President of the Republic appointed double the quota allocated to women within presidential appointments.

With regard to the House of Representatives (Egyptian Parliament), the recent constitutional amendments of 2019 had stipulated the allocation of 25% of the quota for the representation of women. A number of provisions of the Law Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights, the House of Representatives Law and the National Elections Commission Law have been amended in line with the constitutional amendments. The result of the completion of the House of Representatives elections was that women reached 27% in the House of Representatives.

During November 2020, the Egyptian Ministry of Health announced its readiness for the second wave of the COVID-19, and the availability of an adequate stock of medicines.

The Egyptian government gradually began to take decisions that would limit the spread of the virus in its second wave, the most important of which was the Prime Minister Decision No. 2701 of 2020, which stipulated the allocation of one billion pounds from public reserves to face different aspects of spending needed for the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing the number of workers in the state's administrative apparatus and prohibiting holding any parties, festivals, celebrations or events. It also stipulated that citizens must wear protective masks while they are in public and private spaces, in means of transportation and establishments. Anyone who violates these decisions will be punished with a financial penalty. Official judicial control means have been established to reconcile these violations. The Egyptian government also announced other measures, such as the postponement of educational exams until after the mid-year vacation and the launch of the Egyptian Drug Authority's hotline to provide a service to receive complaints and inquiries from citizens regarding the presence of drug deficiencies and others. Among the state's preparations for the next phase is what is included in the directions of the President of the Republic to complete remote study through e-learning platforms in all public & private universities, and private higher institutes and schools, starting from the beginning of the new year and postponing the exams for the educational stages after the mid-year vacation if the level of infection with the virus are stable or postponed for the second



school year, and the first and second secondary school examinations are taken from home thanks to the tablet's system.

At the beginning of 2021, the Ministry of Justice agreed to grant judicial law enforcement authorities to the mayors of cities, centers and neighborhoods and the deputies thereof to the Ministry of Local Development with regard to crimes related to their jobs and departments by applying precautionary measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19 and implementing the decisions of the Supreme Committee for COVID-19 Crisis Management headed by the Prime Minister, on top of which is the emphasis on canceling all celebrations and gatherings, and taking measures to close any facility that organizes any celebration.

The Ministry of Health announced the launch of the President's initiative to "follow up on domestic isolation cases of patients with the emerging COVID-19 " under the slogan of 100 million health "in the governorates (Cairo, Giza, and Qalyubia) and gradually launch it in the rest of the governorates later, and allocate 20 thousand medical teams to go to homes for cases Home isolation for those infected with COVID-19 and follow-up through 5400 health units and a medical center, and the stationing of 800 medical convoys. The Ministry of Health and Population issued a "guide for home isolation for cases of COVID-19 infection in schools." In fact, half a million copies of the guide have been printed and are being distributed to the directorates in the governorates.

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development is also updating Egypt's Vision 2030 in line with the economic and social changes after the success of the economic reform program in facing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the goals that the Egyptian state aspires to achieve with a number of economic experts.

Given the above-mentioned incidents, The National Council for Women has resumed tracking the measures, policies & decisions taken by the GoE that consider women needs ...

(19 July 2020)

-  The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in coordination with the Ministry of Local Development, agreed to **open 505 nurseries in 21 governorates** after obtaining a work permit, while taking all necessary precautions.
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(20 July 2020)

- **The National Council for Women, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the World Economic Forum launched the "Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator"**, the first model of its kind for cooperation between the public and private sectors in Africa and the Middle East region, with the aim of helping governments and companies take decisive measures to bridge economic gender gaps, and increase the participation of women in the workforce, bridging gender gaps in wages, pushing more women to managerial and leadership positions, and gender equality in the future of work. The accelerator contains a pillar for preparing women for the world of work after the COVID-19. Meanwhile, The Ministry of International Cooperation stated in its annual report of 2020 that it has 34 projects estimated at \$ 3.3 billion dollars to support women's empowerment and equal opportunities for both genders within the ministry's current portfolio.
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(21 July 2020)

- The National Council for Women launched the **"Award of recognition for Voluntary Efforts in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic"**, which aims to encourage the culture of individual or collective volunteering and spread it in society. The terms and conditions that must be met to apply for the award were announced on the council's website.
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(30 July 2020)

- The International Organization for Migration participated in the **"Study of Patterns of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) of the Population towards the COVID-19"** with the Ministry of Health and Population, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and UN Women to ensure that migrants are included in the mentioned assessment and study.
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(22 August 2020)

- Visits have been resumed in all public prisons, taking into account preventive, precautionary and health measures. **Prisoners also benefit from national health campaigns such as the 100 Million Health Campaign** to eliminate Hepatitis C virus and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, and conduct the necessary medical tests and examinations as well as provide the necessary treatment to all prison inmates free of charge.
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(4 September 2020)

- The **Export Development Authority signed a cooperation protocol with the National Council for Women**. It aims to raise the export skills of companies owned by women, promote the products thereof in the international markets, integrate Egyptian businesswomen into the export system and enhance their competitiveness in the export markets, thus contributing effectively to increase Egyptian exports.
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(5 September 2020)

- Law No. 177 of 2020 was issued to **amend several provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law** by adding a new article "No. 113" that establishes non-disclosure and **protection of the data of victims of harassment, violence**, indecent assault and corrupting morals, which is also stipulated in Article 96 of the Child Law. Thus, representing an appropriate and positive step towards providing protection and guarantees for victims of this type of crimes stipulated in the law and in response to combatting crimes of violence against women, especially in crises.
 - Law No. 189 of 2020 was passed to amend some provisions of the Penal Code by adding a new article for the first time that added a description and texts to **criminalize and punish bullying**, and this comes in light of the government response to confronting crimes of violence against women, especially in light of crises.
 - Law No. 176 of 2020 was issued to amend some provisions of the **Law Regulating Certain Situations and Procedures for Litigation in Personal Status Matters** "Article 47". The issuance of this law supports women who deal more in matters of guardianship, and they bear the burden of procedures in matters of guardianship of property.
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(10 September 2020)

- **A survey on women entrepreneurs in micro, small and medium enterprises** on the most important challenges facing them due to the COVID-19 was launched. The survey was conducted within the framework of the partnership between the National Council for Women and the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA), and the International Labor Organization in Cairo. It came from the results of the opinion poll on the impact of the crisis on their following projects:
 - **79% of participators of women entrepreneurs in micro, small and medium enterprises think that the impact of the crisis on their businesses is negative**, and **65% indicated that there are some positive impacts related to initiating new activities**, services and programs. Lastly, **31% of the participants perceived the crisis as an opportunity to improve their projects**.
 - The survey also touches on the most important practices followed by women entrepreneurs, such as the **tendency of 36% of the participants to offer their products through electronic platforms**, and that **34% of the respondents have reduced the prices of products and services**, and **43% of the participants think that they continue to market their products through electronic platforms**, and that **55% desire obtaining training on e-marketing followed by training on financial crises management at a rate of 42%**, **71% of the respondents think that they are able to provide services and support to other women entrepreneurs through their work**, and **68% are willing to share experiences**.
-

(13 September 2020)

- The **Public Prosecution has adopted the unified online petitions** service within the framework of activating the policy of digital transformation at the Public Prosecution as well as automating its work, in light of policies encouraging the implementation of precautionary measures that prevent the spread of the COVID-19. This service allows those concerned or their agents inside and outside Egypt - remotely - electronically - to submit their petitions, complaints and reports without the need to proceed to the attorney general's office or any of the prosecution offices across the Republic.

(14 September 2020)

- The **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)** published **“Coronavirus in Egypt” investigative study**, and one of the studies that measure the impact of the crisis. The study was based on the data recorded in the Ministry of Health since the beginning of the pandemic until August 18, 2020 as well as comparing the local situation with other countries. The study focuses on five main points. (the spread and the speed of the spread of the aforementioned virus- the severity of the virus - the precautionary measures - the impact of the measures on the chronological development of infections and deaths numbers - comparing between the situation in Egypt with the global situation). The study took into account the reliance on sex disaggregated data.
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(28 September 2020)

- The Prime Minister assigned the government and the relevant authorities and bodies (i.e. the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Council for Women, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and the Demographic Center) **to prepare an integrated executive plan and a clear roadmap for the goals and visions for a national project to work ok Egyptian families** in light of the spread of the virus.
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(2 October 2020)

- The Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency - the Ministry of Trade and Industry announced the launch of an electronic platform to serve (small and medium enterprises - businesswomen - small producers) **“Small Enterprises Platform”** and integrate it into the Egyptian Export Development Authority service system and update the data of the Egyptian producing and exporting companies on the electronic portal of the agency.
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(5 October 2020)

- The Central Bank of Egypt approved new procedures to **facilitate the opening of bank accounts and deposits and the purchase of certificates using the national number** without the need of providing other documents. These procedures allow opening accounts for micro-enterprises, craftsmen and self-employed workers to enable them to benefit from banking services, especially in securing the necessary funds for the growth of their projects. These measures are included among the package of measures taken by the bank to manage the effect of the virus.
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(8 October 2020)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation approved US contribution of additional **\$ 39 million to support economic growth in Egypt and empower women**, as part of a five-year agreement.
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(26 October 2020)

- The President of the Republic directed the **granting of temporary licenses to all unlicensed nurseries nationwide (10,000 nurseries)**. A working committee for unlicensed nurseries was established in accordance with Prime Minister Decree No. 2371 of 2020 as part of the President’s directives to support the quality of

nurseries, increase their numbers, and improve their licensing procedures and standards in light of the measures taken to confront the spread of the COVID-19.

(4 November 2020)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in coordination with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, **opened the first shelter for survivors of human trafficking crimes** to protect victims in Qalyubia. The shelter provides the necessary health and psychological care services.
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(10 November 2020)

- The second phase of the **"Together Against Human Trafficking" campaign** was launched, the first phase of which was launched in May 2020, which was a joint initiative "in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration in Egypt, the National Coordination Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking and various national and international bodies in order to raise awareness on social media about the dangers of sexual exploitation, forced labor, organ removal, exploitation of homeless children, forced marriage and child marriage through a set of introductory videos and a photo gallery to highlight the various of the human trafficking crime.
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(14 November 2020)

-  The Third Committee of the **United Nations General Assembly on Human Rights adopted the unprecedented Egyptian decision on "protecting the rights of women and girls from the consequences of the emerging COVID-19"** which was prepared in cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Council for Women, and 19 Arab countries and 60 countries around the world joined the list of sponsors of the mentioned resolution.
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(15 November 2020)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation granted the Bank of Alexandria a fund of **100 million Egyptian pounds to finance the digital transformation and handicrafts programs for small, medium and micro enterprises**, through the Saudi grant for small and medium enterprises, valued at 200 million dollars. 14725 companies benefited from the new funds, 30% of them are owned by women.

-  The Prisons Sector of the Ministry of Interior has counted inmates with chronic diseases, senior prisoners and those sentenced to short-term penalties (one year or less). **Early release procedures were taken, with a presidential pardon or conditional release of 27091 convicts** during the period of March to mid-November 2020, among the procedures preventing the spread of the COVID-19.
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(18 November 2020)

- The MSME Development Authority, in cooperation with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa "COMESA", launched the **"Fifty Million African Women Voices" platform** in Egypt, which is the first online platform that connects 50 million women in business in 38 African countries. It will contribute, significantly

and effectively, to facilitate the transfer of ideas, knowledge and information among women entrepreneurs, businesswomen throughout the African continent.

(29 November 2020)

- The Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) announced the established ***of an award for the most distinguished women in the field of work in capital market activities, companies listed in the stock exchange, insurance, real estate finance or microfinance***, as part of the Authority's efforts to support women working in the non-banking financial sector.
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(2 December 2020)

- The Ministry of Transport, in partnership with the National Council for Women and the Egyptian Railways Authority, and in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, launched the ***"Safety Rail Campaign"*** to ensure safe mobility for women and raise awareness on women's causes, especially combating harassment.
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(4 December 2020)

- The "Tahya Masr" Fund organized ***the largest aid convoy in the world***, with 480 trucks to support the neediest families, breaking the record registered since 2004 in the name of Netherlands with 416 trucks.
-

(13 December 2020)

- The National Council for Women, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and development partners, launched ***(3) "Women Safety Units"*** in the hospitals of Al-Qasr Al-Aini, Mansoura and Ain Shams universities, to deal with women victims of violence, and 190 doctors and nurses were trained.
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(16 December 2020)

- The Council of Ministers approved the necessary procedures and steps in order to implement the ***"Your Business in Your Village" initiative, which aims to provide sustainable job opportunities for the citizens of the villages, with a focus on women, especially female heads of households, and maximizing the value of products***. The initiative also aims the technical and professional development of young people in rural communities as well as increasing the family's income, through the establishment of industrial complexes in the Egyptian villages. Each complex contains medium projects or a mixture of medium, small and micro enterprises.
 - The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development provided a grant to the Egyptian government in the amount of ***200 thousand euros to finance "Supporting the creation of a safe work environment that achieves equality for women in the tourism sector in the Arab Republic of Egypt"*** project, which aims to increase the participation rate of the workforce of women in the tourism sector in Egypt and support creating safe and gender-equal work environments.
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(23 December 2020)

- The “Tahya Masr” Fund launched the fifth phase of its initiative under the slogan to confront the repercussions of the emerging COVID-19, under the slogan **“We Share for Humanity”** to support medical teams in isolation, fever and chest hospitals, in addition to a number of orphan care homes and civil society organizations that provide services to the first families with care.
 - The Supreme Administrative Court ruled **that health insurance must be mandatory to treat children with autism.**
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(24 December 2020)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 2659 of 2020 to **reconstitute the National Council for Wages established by Resolution No. 983 of 2003 to define its areas of competencies and include its membership to the National Council for Women**, as part of a plan to include policies that take into account the perspective of gender equality and the needs of women, especially in light of the economic implications of the emerging COVID-19.
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(27 December 2020)

-  The President of the Republic directed the government and relevant institutions to cooperate with NGOs and civil society organizations in order **to launch the second phase of the “A Decent Life”** initiative targeting 50 centers nationwide, with a total of 1,381 villages, and 18 million male & female Egyptians to benefit from them.
 - The Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade announced that **84% of Egyptian families were covered by ration cards during the year 2019/2020.** In fact, the total support for food commodities in the budget for the year 2020/2021 is **84.5 billion pounds. 50,000 ration cards have been extracted for families** who are entitled to a solidarity and dignity pension and were not included in the supply.
-

(29 December 2020)

- The Ministry of Health and Population announced that the total number of examinations conducted by the President of the Republic to support the **health of Egyptian women reached 11 million 33 thousand and 255 women** since the launch of the forementioned initiative in July 2019, and until December 2020. In fact, it includes testing and providing awareness of public health care for all women for free. The initiative is being implemented through 3593 health units at the level of the governorates of the Republic, with the participation of 4,098 medical teams and 112 hospitals to offer medical service. Moreover, inquiries are received through the 100 Million Health Initiative Hotline (15335), and the locations of the units are known through the official website of the initiative.
- The Ministry of Environment signed a cooperation protocol with the private sector to **empower women to recycle unsteady cooking oils as part of the “You are the Beginning” initiative** within the framework of adopting initiatives that serve different segments of society, especially women who play a pivotal role in preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and achieving sustainable development. The initiative aims to reach over 5 million families.

(30 December 2020)

- The Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) issued Decisions **No. 204 and 205 of 2020 to promote gender equality in the access to financing opportunities and benefiting from non-banking financial activities and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex**, in dealing with clients, the development and innovation of non-bank financial products and services that suit the needs of women. Decree 205 of 2020 stipulates that companies and non-banking entities, when practicing their activities and the proportion of women treated reaches 25% or more, either as a natural or legal person, shall be granted a reduction on the development fee or service fee of 50%, depending on the ration of treated women.
- The **Drug control Fund for the Combating and Treatment of Addiction and Abuse of the Ministry of Social Solidarity announced It provided treatment services throughout the year 2020 to 132 thousand and 502 addiction patients free of charge** and in complete confidentiality with the diversity of treatment services and the presence of specialists, developed rehabilitation services for addiction patients remotely and offered a psychological rehabilitation program through an electronic application in cooperation with the hospital's hotline partners and taking all the preventive measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19.

(31 December 2020)

-  The **Women's Complaints Office of the National Council for Women received 66,254 complaints and inquiries** throughout the year 2020, among them, numerous complaints, inquiries and requests for social and economic assistance related to the repercussions of the COVID-19.
-  The **awareness campaigns on the preventive measures against COVID-19, launched by the National Council for Women, reached 3,459,614** individuals at the level of villages and centers in all governorates of the Republic during the period from March 14 to December 31, 2020.
- The National Council for Women launched a number of **awareness campaigns on social media** during its 16-day activities to combat violence against women, aiming to raise awareness of the dangers of cybercrimes & bullying and in response to the increase in violence against women as a consequence of the COVID-19, and these initiatives include:
 - **"Speak Up ... protect yourself and others" campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications**, aiming to raise awareness about electronic risks, safe use methods, and ways to report cyber violence crimes, it has reached 307 thousand viewers.
 - **"Choose your words wisely" campaign in cooperation with Instagram**, shedding light on the cyber-bullying issues and raise societal awareness about its psychological effects and the importance of maintaining a positive environment on the platform & highlight Instagram tools to protect its users from bullying, it has reached 5 million 800 thousand viewers.
 - **"Women Safety Resources" campaign, in cooperation with Facebook**, aiming to spread awareness on ways to protect women from cyber-violence through the protection tools provided by the Facebook platform to prevent cyber-crimes.
 - **Launching a video** in partnership with the Ministry of Manpower and the International Labor Organization, aiming to **raise awareness of the role of business owners and companies in providing a safe work environment for women**.

- Launching **awareness-raising videos on the issue of online harassment and cyber-bullying on social media platforms** in cooperation with Plan International Egypt and a group of artists and creators. The videos underlined the need to report these crimes, which constitute a form of violence against women.

 - The Public Prosecution launched **four digital offices for family prosecution services in Luxor, Gharbeya Cairo & Alexandria Governorates**, which helps in achieving prompt justice, and women will benefit from it to obtain their legal rights without delay and save the burden of time and effort, especially on low-income women and women with disabilities. The Public Prosecution office will establish similar offices nationwide.

 -  Within the framework of the "EL-Mashghal" project implemented by the National Council for Women's business development center (WBDC), a number of women were trained in order to produce medical and protective masks. **125,000 masks have been produced by the Minya and Giza operators** until the end of December 2020.

 -  Through the citizenship project to issue national ID cards for women who are unable to, which was activated by the National Council for Women in June 2020, **the national ID cards were issued for 102,000** unable women until December 2020.

 - The National Center for Social and Criminal Research has conducted **a number of research on the phenomenon of illegal migration, violence, elderly people issues, distance education programs and remote work, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic**. It also conducted opinion polls on how to deal with the pandemic, methods of prevention, awareness, and how the media addresses the phenomenon.

 - In light of the outbreak of the COVID-19, which was at times followed by an increase in crimes of violence against women, especially the crime of female genital mutilation (FGM), **the National Committee for the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt has intensified its efforts** to spread awareness about this crime and ways to report it and protect it by holding **788 on ground activities** during 2020 as well as digital campaigns on social media, the committee's messages have **reached 54 million reach outs**.
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During the year 2021

(2 January 2021)

- The Ministry of Justice has launched a new package of **electronic real estate registration services to make documentation services easily and conveniently available to citizens** and bring them closer together. This will be realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Egyptian Post Authority through six new authentication branches and more headquarters will be opened in succession to the launch of Egypt's digital services provided through the website digital.gov.eg, which saves time and effort and reduce crowding in branches in light of the COVID-19. At the end of last year, the Ministry of Justice limited the provision of documentation services in certain branches to pre-booking and supporting the real estate, documentation, expert and forensic sectors
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(4 January 2021)

- The Ministry of Manpower, during the year 2020, as part of the state's plan to confront the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic took the following actions:
 - o Issuing **"Aman" certificates, of a total of two million and 72 thousand Egyptian pounds for the irregular workers'**
 - o Establishing an **operations room to follow up the implementation of precautionary measures for the repercussions of the COVID-19 in 38,459 facilities**
 - o Launching a number of initiatives, including **the "Egypt is more beautiful" initiative** to train, qualify and employ people with disabilities. The first phase was implemented in Aswan, Assiut, Beni Suef, Alexandria, Daqahlia and Sharkia. 893 trainees were trained through 18 programs, and 622 job opportunities were provided for people with disabilities.
 - o Increasing **periodic bonuses and additional incentives from 150 to 375 pounds**, increasing the tax exemption limit by 60%, reducing tax rates for middle and low-income people, and approving an additional package for 60% of workers in the state
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(5 January 2021)

 The Ministry of Social Solidarity confirmed the **perpetuation of work in nurseries, while reducing the density to 50%** and strengthening the necessary precautionary measures and closing in case of an increase in HIV infections, and that only 11 of the 4,000 nurseries were closed due to injuries.

- The Ministry of Health announced the allocation of **34 centers to provide vaccination services with vaccines for the COVID-19 throughout the week**, and that the priority in obtaining vaccines will be for health sector workers, oncology patients, and people with chronic diseases, provided that the state shall cover the costs of the vaccine for the beneficiaries and beneficiaries of the "Takaful & Karama" program and for people with chronic diseases.

 The Cabinet announced that the number of **hospitals that currently provide services to COVID-19 patients has reached 500 hospitals**, either Ministry of Health hospitals, which have reached about 363 hospitals or higher education hospitals, and other government agencies that provide their services

- The Cabinet announced the **activation of an electronic system to follow up the rates of medical oxygen consumption in all hospitals 24 hours a day with sufficient reserve stock in each governorate.**
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(7 January 2021)

- The Doctors Syndicate has agreed with the Insurance and Pensions Authority on the rules for **disbursing the work injury pension to women and men doctors' martyrs of the COVID-19, according to the decision issued on May 30, 2020, considering the COVID-19 as an infectious disease that is entitled to a work injury pension after submitting the required documents to the authority. it will reach an amount of 6000 pounds during this year.**
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(9 January 2021)

- The Ministry of Health, Population and Health Insurance decided to **grant exceptional leave to pregnant women** whose pregnancy passed 28 weeks (7 months) until the date of birth.
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(20 January 2021)

-  The **Egyptian Cabinet approves the draft law submitted by the National Committee for the eradication of FGM** -after the study/review of Ministry of Justice- amending some provisions of the Penal Code to increase the punishment of FGM crimes, the amendments were stipulated in Article (242 bis & 242 (a) bis)

International Recognition:

- ✚ The ***Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women praised the many efforts and decisions that Egypt is currently making to face the repercussions of the COVID19*** , taking into account the needs of Egyptian women, and the women policy tracker and Programs in Support of Women during the Pandemic.
- ✚ ***Egypt ranked first in the Middle East and West Asia in terms of the number of measures taken to support women*** in the face of the emerging COVID-19 and the number of measures taken by Egypt according to the standards of the United Nations, reaching 21 measures and actions. This is the highest level of action taken in the Middle East and West Asia since the beginning of the crisis, according to the report issued by the UNDP and the UN Women and the Empowerment of Women on the measures taken by the countries of the world to support women during the pandemic
- ✚ The ***Arab Republic of Egypt is ranked seventh and first in the Arab world and Africa in medical research for the COVID-19***, in the “COVID-19 Research Index”, with 108 studies and research so far.

Finally, The National Council for Women will continue tracking & monitoring all issued policies & programs that mainstream & respond to the needs of women during this crisis. NCW commits to a strong coordination with all concerned ministries and bodies to support the implementation of those policies as well as suggesting new policies in favor of Egyptian women.